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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Major Eugene Bradbury, District Officer, A.I.A.
210 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia

HABS
VA.

49-WALK.V.

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HILLSBOROUGH
King and Queen County, Virginia

Owner: Mrs. W. T. Henley, Walkerton, Virginia

Date of Erection: About 1722

Architect:

Builder: Colonel Humphrey Hill

Present Condition: The dwelling house is in a very good state of preservation and is being well cared for by the owners, who are also the occupants. Quite a few changes have been made in the structure without destroying the main lines and the simple dignity of the original building. A two story wing has been added on the west side and it is understood that an addition of some kind has been removed from the east side. Front and rear porches and a kitchen wing not in harmony with the original work, have been added. Original doors and windows in the east and west brick ends have been removed and the openings bricked up. The main staircase in the central hall has been altered to allow of an entrance being made into the northeast bedroom from the hall. The panelling in the drawing room extending from the floor to the ceiling with wooden cornice has been entirely removed and the north wall of the drawing room moved about two feet, decreasing the size of the drawing room, and a wall that originally divided the present dining room has been entirely removed. The owner has photographs of the panelled walls of the drawing room before removal, which were kindly loaned to the Survey and from which photographs and drawings were made. The walls shown by dash lines on the plan are as they were originally. The exterior woodwork is painted white.

The store house is in a rather poor state of preservation. There have been a number of changes in this structure, although the main walls, gables, and roof remain as they probably were originally. Window and door openings have been changed and a large central chimney with a brick oven, said to have been in the center of the building, has been removed. A filled in place on the north end wall seemed to indicate where a chimney has been removed but may have been a large opening for merchandise or tobacco. A chase in the east and west walls of basement indicate that a brick wall has been removed, and which was probably connected with the central chimney. The floor in the basement is dirt and rubbish, evidently much filled in.

Number of Stories: The dwelling house has a brick basement with two stories above. The later addition on the west is two stories high, much lower.

The store house has a basement and one story above with an attic in roof.

Materials of Construction: The foundation and basement walls of the dwelling house are of brick, also the east and west end walls and the four chimneys. The brick work is laid with Flemish bond except the chimneys which are laid with stretcher bond. The south front and north front walls above the basement are frame covered with weatherboarding, part of which has been replaced. The roof is hipped and has a very good continuous cornice around with modillions. What was undoubtedly a shingled roof has been removed and replaced with corrugated galvanized iron. The interior panelling and woodwork is pine, except the stair rail, balusters, newels, string and brackets, which are walnut. The panelling and old woodwork, generally, is painted gray. New trim and mantel in drawing room replace original woodwork that has been removed. Floors are of pine, random width.

All the walls of the store house are of brick with brick gables. The walls up to the cornice line on the south end and the top of the windows on the north end are built with small red bricks, $7\frac{1}{4}" \times 1\frac{3}{4}" \times 3\frac{3}{8}"$. Above these points are larger bricks, $8\frac{5}{8}" \times 2\frac{1}{8}" \times 4\frac{1}{8}"$. The face brick above water table are laid Flemish bond with dark headers on the front wall. What was undoubtedly originally a shingled roof has been replaced with galvanized iron. The front of the building has been white-washed at one time. The first floor and attic floor are of rough board with a rough staircase and the walls and ceiling were at one time plastered.

Historical Data: In Mrs. Courtney's history, The Hill Family of Virginia, is the following extract:

"Colonel Humphrey Hill, the son of Thomas Hill, and Edith Bell (his wife) of London, England, was born in 1706 and educated at the Bluecoat School, connected with Christ Church Hospital. He emigrated to America in 1722 and lived first, at Tappahannock, then called Hobb's Hold, in Essex County, Virginia. He afterwards settled a place, which he called Hillsborough, in King and Queen County, Virginia. There he was a successful merchant, dealing much in tobacco, which he shipped in his own vessels. He married Miss Frances Baylor, daughter of Col. Robert Baylor, and his wife (who was Hannah Gregory, whose father, Richard Gregory, married Miss Mary or Ann Whiting). This Richard Gregory was an Englishman."

The following description is taken from Alfred Bagby's
History of King and Queen County:

"Next to the Tunstall's came Hillsborough, built by Colonel Humphrey Hill. He was a man of large means and carried on a large mercantile business, buying his goods in England and sending back cargoes of tobacco. Up to some twenty years ago the old tobacco warehouse was still standing. The foundation of this warehouse was laid on large solid rocks, brought from England as ballast. This house was well and substantially built. It has a handsome black walnut stairway. In his house, as well as other colonial houses, the chimneys in the basement have an arched fireplace, but there is no flue passing upward from the arch. No one has ever explained to me why such places should be left in the chimney. They certainly did not strengthen the chimney, and very few bricks were saved by leaving the opening. There was an arrangement on this house which I never saw on any other. Under the second story windows there were earthenware martin nests in the shape of flower pots fastened to the house by wooden pegs. When visiting there, my early morning naps were often disturbed by the chattering of the martins. This place was sold by Mr. Charles Hill, the grandson of Colonel Humphrey Hill, to William Temple, who made a present of it to his sister, Mrs. Betsey Henley, the wife of T. M. Henley, and a member of that family still owns it."

Part of the above statement is quoted in Volume XXXVII of the
Virginia Historical Magazine.

Four miles north of the house, Hillsborough, which is six and one-quarter miles southeast of St. Stephens' Church on Virginia Route No. 14, is an iron slab or highway marker bearing the following inscription:

"This house, four miles south, was built by Colonel Humphrey Hill about 1722. It was of quaint architecture, having brick ends and frame front and rear. The place was raided by the British during the Revolution."

Old King William Homes and Families, by Peyton Neale Clarke, says:

"Colonel Humphrey Hill, of Hillsborough, King and Queen County, died March, 1775. Thought to be the son of Isaac Hill (from whom the King William family dates). The coat of arms is identical, and it is reasonably certain that this family is descended from the Hills of Alverton, County of Gloucester, England, whose ancestry is recorded in Burke's Landed Gentry for several hundred years before their arrival in America. Colonel Humphrey Hill probably had issue: Thomas, of St. Stephen's Parish, King and Queen County, Lay Delegate 1796; Henry Hill, Virginia House of Delegates, 1784; John Hill, of 'Hillsborough', who married Mary Waller Lewis, daughter of Colonel

Zachary Lewis and wife, Anne Overton Terrill and other children."

The identity of Colonel Humphrey Hill, of Hillsborough, in King and Queen County, Virginia, was established in the William and Mary College Quarterly, Volume II, dated 1893. Mr. R. G. H. Kleane, of Lynchburg, Virginia, had a seal which once belonged to Colonel Humphrey Hill. The seal bore the following arms described in Burke's Peerage and Baronetage:

"Hill, of Alverton, County of Gloucester; Azure on a chevron, between three owls, three mullets sable, a bordure ermine."

The Hill coat of arms is illustrated in Mrs. Courtney's book, The Hill Family of Virginia.

The following extract was taken from The Encyclopedia of Virginia, Biography, Volume I:

"Humphrey Hill, was an extensive merchant of King and Queen County. He was vestryman of St. Stephen's parish and Colonel of the County Militia. His will dated February 8, 1774, was proved March 13, 1775. He married Frances Baylor, and had issue Humphrey, Robert, William, Baylor, John, Edward, Ann and Elizabeth."

The following is an extract from a copy of Colonel Humphrey Hill's will as published in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Volume XXIV:

"I give unto my son Edward Hill all my lands in King and Queen County whereon I now live and one fifth of all my negroes and servants and their increase, the whole stock of all sorts on the said land to Him and his heirs forever on this express condition that he and all those claiming under him do pay or cause to be paid unto my son Humphrey Hill during his natural life the sum of fifteen pounds per annum for which the said land and negroes and servants and their Increase shall always be liable."

Bibliography:

The Hill Family of Virginia, compiled by Mrs. Giles C. Courtney, nee Elizabeth Spotswood Hill, 1905.

King and Queen County, Virginia, by Rev. Alfred Bagby, A.B., D.D., New York and Washington, D. C. The Neale Publishing Company, 1908.

Old King William Homes and Families, by Peyton Neale Clarke. John P. Marton and Company, Louisville, Kentucky, Copyright, 1897.

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XXXIV published in 1926; Volume XXXVII published in 1929.
Publication Committee: E. V. Valentine, C. V. Meredith.
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Publishing Company. Copyright 1915.

Key to Inscriptions on Virginia Highway Historical Markers.
Published by the State Commission on Conservation and Develop-
ment, Richmond, Virginia. Richmond Division of Purchase and
Printing, 1932.

Virginia Thompson
Historian

Approved: November 11, 1936

Eugene Bradbury
MAJOR EUGENE BRADBURY, A.I.A.
District Officer

Re. Feb. 5 '37 - T/W